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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/701,013

11/04/2003

Rory A.J. Curtis

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EXAMINER

ALLEN, MARIANNE P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1647

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/14/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/701,013	Applicant(s) CURTIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Marianne P. Allen	Art Unit 1647	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 40-44, 47-51 and 54-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 40, 41 and 44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-43, 47-51, 54-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/08/07 has been entered.

Applicant's arguments filed 11/08/07 have been fully considered but they are not fully persuasive.

Claims 45-46 and 52-53 have been cancelled. Claims 40-44, 47-51, and 54-58 are under consideration.

Priority

Applicant's response replaces the paragraph on page 1 of the specification. This amendment supersedes the amendment of 1/08/07 which included the information that the instant application is a divisional application of 09/561,763 which has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,664,373. As such, this paragraph is now incorrect and/or incomplete.

Applicant is again requested to update the status (i.e. patented, abandoned) of the applications referenced in the first sentence(s) of the specification following the title and to include **all** of the continuing information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 47-51 and 54-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a new matter rejection.

The concept of "contacting a sample comprising a polypeptide" was not seen. (See for example, claims 47 and 54.) Applicant's response at page 9 indicates that claims 40, 47, and 54 were amended to remove "a sample comprising." This language was removed from claim 40 but not claims 47 and 54.

As set forth in the Advisory Action dated 10/22/07, applicant's comments regarding basis for "sample" in original claims 42, 49, and 56 are not persuasive. These claims are not original claims. While *ipsis verbis* support is not required, basis for the concept is. "Contacting a sample" is a broader concept than "contacting a polypeptide." Particular examples of samples do not provide support for the generic concept now claimed.

Claims 54-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 11 or sequences 95% identical, does not reasonably provide enablement for polypeptides comprising a biologically active fragment of at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 11. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

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The specification does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of what is considered a “biologically active fragment.” There does not appear to be a limiting definition of this phrase for the activities embraced. Example 4 demonstrates that full length TWIK-5 (SEQ ID NO: 11) functions as a potassium channel. SEQ ID NO: 11 is a 401 amino acid sequence. In the most limited embodiment, claim 54 is directed to a biologically active fragment of 15 amino acids. There is no evidence or reason to believe that any 15 amino acid fragment of SEQ ID NO: 11 would function as an operable potassium channel. The specification does not perform deletion analysis to demonstrate those portions of the sequence that are critical to this activity. There is no guidance as to those fragments that would be biologically active. As such, the claims as written are considered to constitute undue experimentation.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 42 lacks antecedent basis in claim 40 for “sample.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne P. Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-0712.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 5:30 am - 2:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manjunath N. Rao can be reached on 571-272-0939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marianne P. Allen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1647

mpa